The Clarion Call
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts
Published Quarterly - Vol: XXIII, Issue I, January 2024

From the Department Commander

Greetings Brothers,
Since the last issue we have had some very successful events as you can see in this Clarion Call. The annual Remembrance Day trip to Gettysburg was personally even more rewarding this year than last; not least as I shared the trip with my wife Donna.

Camps are reporting changes with new brothers and the loss of others and changes in leadership. We have some exciting changes to report with the location of 2024 department encampment and the entertainment for our annual campfire. I want to thank the Encampment Site Committee for all their hard work in finding a new site for our encampment and changes in campfire entertainment.

Events and change take effort and dedication as does the day to day or month to month operation of our camps and department. It also takes knowledge. I have heard from some of our brothers that they are reluctant to assume a leadership role as they aren't sure what to do our how much effort it will take from their busy schedules.

We should all take advantage of the SUVCW Memorial University. It sounds an imposing organization and over a hundred years ago it was an actual stone and mortar building. Now it is a collection of on-line courses or descriptions on everything from the Civil War, the GAR and Allied Orders and the SUVCW itself. It provides Job Descriptions for Camp, Department and National level in an easily understood format.

Job Descriptions | My Site (suvcwmu.org) should bring you to the site where you can learn about job responsibilities for Camp, Department and National officers. We all need to take advantage of this resource to better serve our brotherhood. Another useful resource is the Reporting Dates section under Governance and Forms which alerts camps and departments of the dates certain forms are due. CAMP REPORT DATES.pdf (suvcw.org) . Form 22 Installing Officer's Report is due by February 15th followed by Form 27 the Camp Yearly Report with Roster and Per Capita Dues on April 30th . These two forms together present the status of every camp.

With a little knowledge and dedication every brother is capable of contributing more than his yearly dues and attendance at a few meetings. In this way we can ensure our organization will continue for many more years.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John Dupré

Mark your calendars for the Department Encampment 26 - 27 April 2024!

2024 Department Encampment!

Brothers, the 2024 Department Encampment is scheduled for April 26 and 27 at the Lakeside Inn, 595 North Avenue, Wakefield, MA.
The Encampment Site Committee has worked hard to find a great location with affordable overnight room rates. The committee looked at 6 different locations before deciding on the Lakeside.
Schedule of Events:
Friday 26 April
7:00 PM Encampment Campfire featuring a "Pizza Party" and live entertainment by the "Swamptones" A local band steeped in the tradition of the Louisiana bayou, and surrounding areas. Jump blues, Tex Mex, zydeco, New Orleans rhythm and blues, and a little Dixie land. Their song list spends nearly a century of musical heritage.

Saturday 27 April
0800 Buffet Breakfast
09:00 Encampment starts with a Memorial Service for Departed Members
09:30 Business Session begins
11:30 break for Lunch
1:00 PM Business session resumes including election of Department Officers
6:00 PM Department Banquet
Please save the date and plan on attending!

Mark your calendars for the Department Annual Lincoln Brunch 11 Feb 2024!

24th Annual Lincoln Birthday Brunch

The Department of Massachusetts, invites you to join us in celebrating the life and deeds of President Abraham Lincoln at our 24th Annual Lincoln Birthday Brunch Sunday Feb 11, 2024, 10:30 AM at Harrington's Pub, 17 Water Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts. All are welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family members.

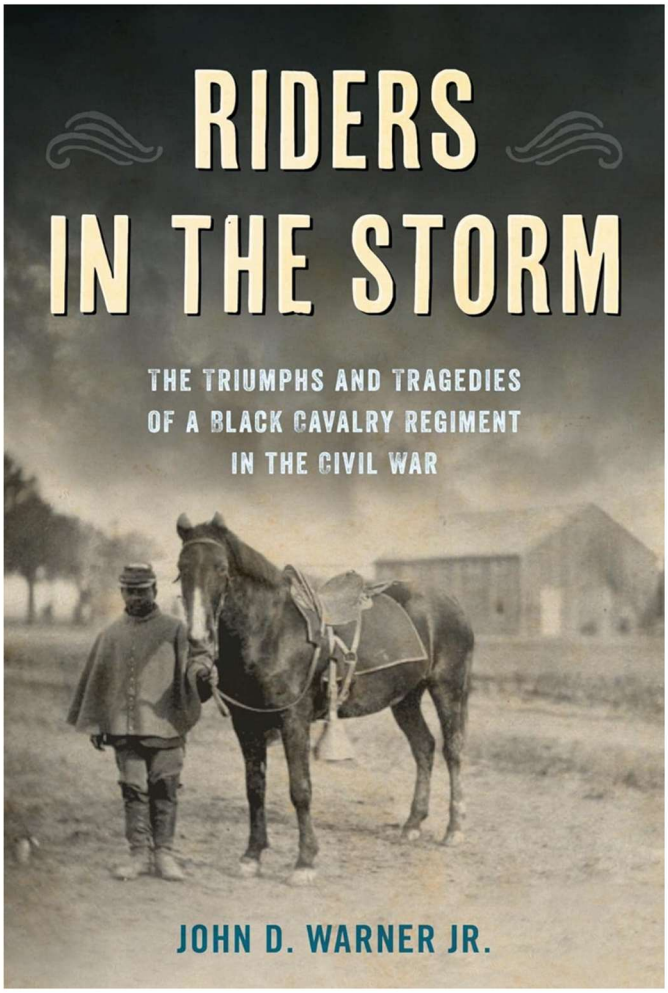
This year's featured speaker will be John D. Warner, Jr., author of "Riders in the Storm: The Triumphs and Tragedies of a Black Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War", the story of the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, the only Black cavalry regiment raised in the North during the war.

Tickets are $25.00 per person and must be purchased no later than February 4th, 2023. Please send a check or money order for $25 for each ticket, payable to “Department of Mass. SUVCW”, to:

2024 Lincoln Brunch
c/o Kevin Tucker
58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Contact Kevin Tucker with any questions at (617) 678-6003 or by email at ktsuv@outlook.com

Uniform, period clothing or modern business attire please.



John D. Warner recounts the history of the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, the only Black cavalry regiment raised in the North during the war.
After Massachusetts made history with the 54th and 55th Infantry Regiments, its governor wanted to continue the experiment of training African-Americans as Union fighting men, this time as cavalry. Where the infantry regiments recruited largely free Blacks from the North, the 5th focused on escaped slaves who it was believed would be better horsemen.
In the spring of 1864, the regiment journeyed south and fought in Grant's siege of Petersburg, where it joined attacks that nearly took the city in June. The 5th was then abruptly sent to Maryland to guard Confederate prisoners of war, until Col. Charles Francis Adams advocated for, and was granted, a return to combat duty. As part of the mostly Black XXV Corps, the cavalrymen found themselves at the vanguard of the Union army as it captured Richmond.
In the spirit of the book One Gallant Rush and the movie Glory, Riders in the Storm covers—uncovers and indeed recovers—the story of the African-American cavalrymen of the 5th Massachusetts. Author John Warner has literal fingertip command of the primary sources, and after spending two decades researching letters, diaries, reports, newspapers, and more, he tells a story of resilience in the face of adversity, one that will resonate not just during the present moment of reckoning with race in the United States, but in the annals of American history for all time.

Recruitment 2023

Brothers, in 2023 we welcomed 13 new Brothers into the Department. Camp 15 leads the way with 5 new Brothers!

Camp 15
Gene Theroux, Robert Morse, Christopher Collins, Robert Howe, Thomas Howe
Camp 5
Collin Lawton, Andrew Ruocco, Brian Ruocco
Camp 54
Brent Upchurch, Nicholas Cerruto, Charles Hildreth
Camp 25
Daniel Anderson, Cole Anderson

Gettysburg Remembrance Day 2024

The Department travelled to Gettysburg for the Annual Remembrance Day and the weather was perfect. Thursday is the travel day down to Gettysburg with a stop on the way for lunch.
Friday, we toured the Bolivar Heights Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Park. At the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, Harpers Ferry was the site of John Brown's Raid against slavery.
Saturday morning, we held a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the national Cemetery where we remembered all of the soldiers buried there from New England and layed a wreath at the Massachusetts plot. We were joined by Brothers from across the nation as they gathered to also remember their state's boys in blue.
Following the ceremony at the cemetery, we met with all of the Allied Orders at the Albert Woolfson Memorial to lay wreaths of tribute to the Grand Army of the Republic and to Albert Woolfson, the last member of the GAR to pass away in 1956.
Also on Saturday Morning, was the Sons of Veterans Reserve Annual Gettysburg Breakfast.
Starting at 1:00 PM, the Grand parade stepped off and we marched through the streets of Gettysburg led by our Commander in Chief, Brother Peter Hrisko. The parade was live-streamed by the American Battlefield Trust and can be viewed on their YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lF8uGly0zh4

Saturday night was the original Civil War Ball, which was very well attended. The proceeds from the Ball each year are donated to the National Park Service for the Battleground upkeep.

Harpers Ferry and the Civil War

(from the National Park Service Website)
John Brown's raid helped catapult the nation into Civil War. The war had a disastrous effect on Harpers Ferry, leaving a path of destruction that wrecked the town's economy and forced many residents to flee forever. Because of the town's strategic location on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, at the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, and near Washington, DC, United States and Confederate troops moved through Harpers Ferry frequently. The town changed hands eight times between 1861 and 1865.

On April 18, 1861, less than 24 hours after Virginia seceded from the Union, U. S. soldiers set fire to the Armory and Arsenal to keep them out of the hands of approaching Virginia militia. The fires destroyed the Arsenal and 15,000 weapons, but the Virginia militiamen and local townspeople put out the flames. The Virginia soldiers then shipped the weapon-making equipment south. When they abandoned the town two months later, these soldiers, now Confederates, burned most of the factory buildings and blew up the railroad bridge. On July 4, 1861, Harpers Ferry citizen Frederick Roeder was caught in crossfire between U. S. and Confederate forces and became the first Harpers Ferry civilian casualty of the war.

Federal forces re-occupied Harpers Ferry in 1862. During the Confederacy's first invasion of the North, on September 15, 1862, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson surrounded and captured the 12,500-man Union garrison stationed here. Learn more about the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's campaign and Harpers Ferry's subsequent fall to the Confederate army.

When the Federals returned to Harpers Ferry after the Battle of Antietam, they

transformed the surrounding heights into fortified bastions to protect the garrison and the railroad.

These defenses were put to the test from July 4 to July 7, 1864, as Confederate General Jubal Early led his Army of the Valley to Harpers Ferry en route to an attack on Washington, DC. The U. S. garrison here successfully held out against Early, delaying him for several days and helping save Washington.

Later that summer, U. S. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan used Harpers Ferry as his base of operations to wage a successful campaign in the Shenandoah Valley against Gen. Early's army.

Camp 54 Welcomes Two New Brothers

Col. Robert Gould shaw camp 54 welcomes two new brothers. Brother Nicholas Cerruto, the 3rd Great Grandson Of Private Alanson Peet of the 19th Connecticut volunteer Infantry, and Brother Brent Upchurch, the 3rd Great Grandson of Private Charles H. Christian of the 124th Illinois Infantry.

Brother Cerruto is a High School Teacher and is working on his Master Degree in History.
Brother Upchurch is a retired Pediatrician.

Welcome Brothers!

William Gould Memorial Dedicated in Dedham, MA

The town of Dedham, MA dedicated a statue to William B. Gould, an escaped slave who joined the US Navy during the Civil War. Through the work of the Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, the project received a grant from the SUVCW National Civil War Memorial Fund.

William B. Gould was born into slavery in North Carolina. During a rainy night in 1862, a 24-year-old Gould escaped with seven other enslaved men by rowing a small boat 28 nautical miles down the Cape Fear River.

The USS Cambridge, which was blockading the coast, rescued the men and Gould enlisted in the Navy.

Gould was promoted several times during his service, which lasted throughout the war. He was involved in two major engagements in his service, including the taking of the CSS Georgia off the coast of Portugal.
Gould kept an extraordinary diary during his service, one of only three known to have been kept by a formerly enslaved sailor.

With his wife, Cornelia, Gould settled in EastDedham after the war and raised a family of six sons—all of whom served in war—and two daughters. Though his was one

of only two black families in the town, he quickly became a respected business and community leader.

Gould spoke in schools and at assemblies on veterans' issues, and his brothers-in-arms elected him to serve as the Commander of the local chapter of the Charles W. Carroll Post 144 of the Grand Army of the Republic. A pew is dedicated in his honor at the Church of the GoodShepherd, where he was a founder.

General Benjamin Butler Ceremony

The Department conducted our annual memorial ceremony honoring Union General Benjamin Franklin Butler at the Hildreth Family Cemetery, 270 Hildreth Street, Lowell, Massachusetts, at 11:00 AM on Sunday, November 5, 2023.

The memorial ceremony echoed the original Grand Army of the Republic ritual of rededication, and included uniformed and non-uniformed members conducting the commemoration, prayers and the reading of a brief biography of General Butler at his grave site. The ceremony was attended by descendants of General Butler, including Oakes Plympton, who spoke about General Butler's life after the war.

Brother Kevin Tucker read a biography of General Butler, as well as the biography of General Adelbert Ames, Butler's son in law. Ames was married to

Butler’s daughter Blanche. Benjamin Butler's amazing life and historic deeds were honored and celebrated, so that that his memory and legacy can be passed on to succeeding generations.

PEARSON

Camp 25 Celebrates Veterans Day

Willie Grout Camp 25 participated in the annual Worcester Veterans Day Parade. The parade was almost doubled in length from previous years. Brothers Bruce Stone, PCinC Ed Norris, and PDC George Maple marched in the second position behind the Marine Corps League. The United States Marine Corps celebrated its 248th birthday the day before.

It was the 70th observance of the day by the Worcester Veterans Council, and the 104th observation of Armistice Day, the day World War I ended.

Clark Cemetery Rededication - Gloucester, MA

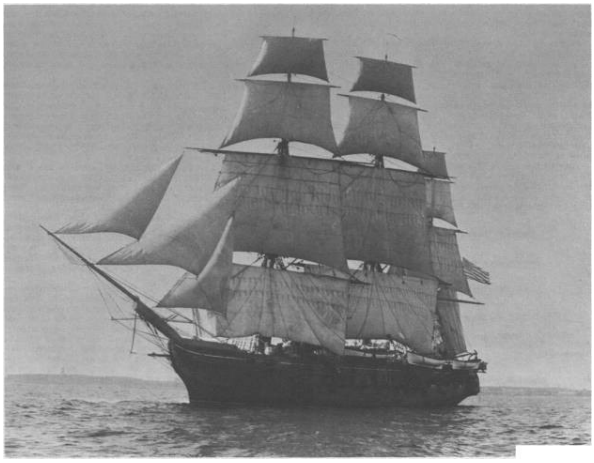
On Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 10 AM the First Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve participated in a Ceremony of Rededication for Clark's Cemetery in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The rededication came after years of hard work reclaiming the cemetery from overgrowth and negligence.

Clark's Cemetery is located in back of First Parish, (Old Bridge Street Cemetery) at 122 Centennial Ave, Gloucester, MA. It was established in 1840/1860. It is only accessible by walking through First Parish. Many of Gloucester's Civil War veterans are buried there.

One of Gloucester's prominent citizens, Joseph Green, a member of Col. David Allen Post No. 45, G.A.R. is thought to be the first African American member of the GAR, is buried in this cemetery. Mr. Green owned a local business, th eGloucester Dye-House. He joined the GAR in 1868. A U.S. Navy Veteran, Mr. Green was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. He served in USS JAMESTOWN, a sloop of war, during the War.

USS JAMESTOWN was assigned to the Atlantic Blockading Squadron, where she chased the bark Alvarado ashore off Fernandina, Florida and set her on fire on 5 August. She captured the schooner Aigburth off the coast of Florida on 31 August 1861. Four days later she captured, dismantled, and scuttled the schooner Colonel Long. Next she captured the schooner Havelock on 15 December. Her final prize was the brig Intended, taken off Wilmington, North Carolina on 1 May 1862.
Jamestown departed for the Pacific on 12 October to protect American commerce from Confederate privateers; and she remained on that duty until after the end of the war, decommissioning at Mare Island on 17 September 1865.

Mr. Green died at the Chelsea soldiers home in 1916 at the age of 72.



USS JAMESTOWN

Joseph Green, Landsman, US Navy

Camp 15 Celebrates Memorial Day

The L. A. Tifft Camp 15 performed their annual Memorial Day ritual at the GAR Monument at Springfield Cemetery. Following that ceremony, they then visited the Camp's namesake Capt. Lewis Augustis Tifft's family lot. The Camp Brothers

found all of the family gravestones were in need of cleaning. During the summer, Camp Brothers Bob and Tom Howe returned and cleaned all of them. The Howe brothers are planing on giving the gravestones another cleaning next summer.

News From the Department Patriotic Instructor

The National Patriotic Instructions will now be at
https://suvcw.org/national-patriotic-instructor

Now that camps have held their elections, each camp commander is encouraged to appoint a patriotic instructor.

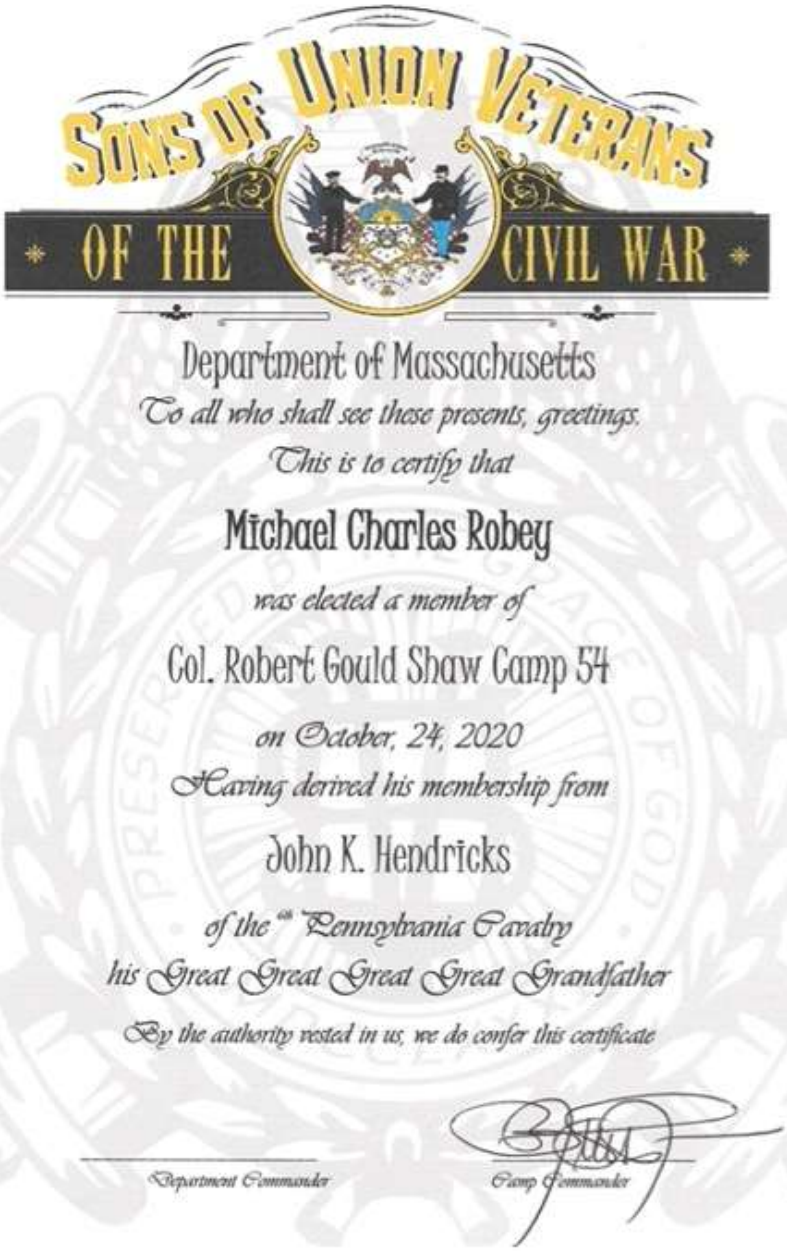
If you have any questions contact the Patriotic Instructor: Kenneth London: 781-848-8408 email kenlondon@comcast.net

We Now have Department Membership Certificates!

The Department has designed a membership certificate (see scan below).
To obtain a certificate for your camp members, you need to submit:

1. The Brothers full name as you want it to appear on the certificate
2. Camp Name
3. Date of membership
4. Qualifying Ancestors Name
5. Ancestors Regiment
6. Association/relation

Send the request to Brother Fraser at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com
There is no cost for the certificate.


SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
Department of Massachusetts
To all who shall see these presents, greetings.
This is to certify that
Michael Charles Robey
was elected a member of
Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54
on October, 24, 2020
Having derived his membership from
John K. Hendricks
of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry
his Great Great Great Great Grandfather
By the authority vested in us, we do confer this certificate
Department Commander
Camp Commander

The Archives Needs Your Help!

The Department Archives is looking to complete our collection of records in order to provide full resources to researchers. We are looking for the following volumes. If you have one or more of these and would like to donate them to the Department Archives, please contact Dept. Historian Peter Preble (rev.peter.preble@gmail.com or Dept. JVC John Wilder (jwwt2000@hotmail.com).
We are looking for the following volumes of annual proceedings:
SUVCW National: 1914-1917, 1982, 1987, 1990-1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2009-
SUVCW Massachusetts: 1988-2011, 2014, 2017-
GAR National: 1878-1881, 1883-1885, 1887, 1888, 1892-1894, 1896, 1899-1913, 1915-1932, 1935, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1943, 1947, 1950-
GAR Massachusetts: 1882-1887, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905, 1907, 1948-
We are also looking for issues of "The Banner" pre-1908 as well as the following volumes:
"Massachusetts in the Army & Navy During the War of 1861-1865" volume 2
"Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War" volumes 1 and 3
Annual Reports of the Massachusetts Adjutant General, full set of war years 1861-1866
As always we are happy to accept any related records or publications to add to our collection, thank you!

Memorial University

In 1900 the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) voted to establish Memorial University, a college located in Mason City, Iowa. Its purpose was not only to educate, but also to instill patriotism in its students, and prepare them for an active role in American society. The University was closed in 1910. The spirit of Memorial University lives on as our web portal to SUVCW curriculum.
In 2009, the Officer Training Course for members of the SUVCW was added to the Memorial University. This course was a vision of Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert and was achieved through the efforts of a Special National Committee on Education and Leadership established by the 127th SUVCW National Encampment.

It is strongly recommended that Brothers who desire to attain Department and National Office complete the Memorial University Constitution and Regulations Course linked here https://www.suvcwmu.org/consitution-regulations

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